



Assessment Team Office Hours Q&A

September 3, 2025

Resources

- [Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)
- [Assessment Security Webpage](#)
- Maine DOE Professional Learning Calendar: [Event Calendar | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#)

General

Question:

Where can I find a calendar with all of the assessment information in one place?

The 2025-26 school year assessment calendar is available at:

https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/calendar.

Maine Through Year

Additional Resources

- [NWEA Maine Connection Page](#)

Questions:

For clarification: Did you say that the 2025 NWEA norms are retroactively applied to all student percentile values back through the 2022-23 school year the MARC platform?

The 2025 norms have been retroactively applied to all MAP Growth reports from prior years.

Is there a rationale that can be shared with us? We use data to create info shared with stakeholders-will this change create confusion?

From NWEA's Psychometrics Team:

Norms are reference points, not properties of the test itself. Likewise, they are descriptive in nature, not prescriptive. They tell us how a score compares to a specific population at a specific point in time.

- A score from 2020 can be compared to 2020 norms to answer: "How did this person perform relative to the 2020 population?"
- The same score can also be compared to 2025 norms to answer: "How would this person's performance look if they were part of the 2025 population?"

Both comparisons are descriptive, not prescriptive. They don't change the original score or the test taker's ability; they just provide different lenses for interpretation.

When using norms to compare scores across multiple years, the most critical consideration is to use the same norm set. If you mix norms from different years, the comparisons become inconsistent because each norm set reflects a different population or a different reference point.

From Krista Averill, Maine DOE:

NWEA created a [letter template for families regarding the MAP Growth updates](#), including the new 2025 RIT score norms. Maine DOE has reviewed and revised the letter to better align to the Maine Through Year Assessment. The [revised letter](#) to families is located on our [Maine DOE Maine Through Year Assessment webpage](#).

When should we see 25-26 students in Acacia so that we can begin grouping?

Students will appear in Acacia once they are enrolled by the SAU in Synergy. The student enrollment information in Synergy syncs to the NEO assessment roster, which is then manually uploaded each weekday morning to the Acacia platform by a member of the Assessment Team.

Do we need to download any new browsers for fall testing?

Yes, a new State Solutions Secure Browser is needed for the fall Maine Through Year Assessment. Please see the [System & Technology Guide](#) for more information.

I did hear we need a new State Solutions Secure Browser, what about for MAP Growth?

From Hailey Westphal, NWEA Lead Solution Delivery Consultant: Here is a link to [MAP Growth System Requirements](#).

ISRs from Acacia will be available 12/3 from fall testing?

ISRs are available only for the spring administration of the Maine Through Year Assessment, as they report student achievement according to grade-level standards by using the Maine scale score. There are other reports that can be shared with families, however, for example the Family Report available in the MAP Growth platform.

Maine Science

Additional Resources

- [Maine Science Support](#)

Questions:

No questions at this time.

NAEP & International

Resource

- [NAEP Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [NAEP Assessment Schedule](#)
- [Nation's Report Card Website](#)
- [NAEP Data Explorer](#)

- [NAEP Questions Tool](#) - with released items by subject, grade, and year (includes sample student responses, scoring, and result data as applicable)
- [NAEP Item Maps](#) – with released items by subject, grade, and year

Questions

What is the timeline for the transition of NAEP to Apple/iOS devices?

At this time, the goal for NAEP administration on schools devices using iOS operating systems is to be fully operational for 2028. Updates pertaining to the progress with this transition including field tests and/or pilot studies will be provided as information is provided to the Assessment Team and Maine DOE.

Will the school tech survey be sent to District Assessment Coordinators as the timeline approaches?

DACs will be CC'd on all communications related to the NAEP School Technology Survey. I will send all DACs an invite to the NAEP Assessment Management System later today to provide you with the opportunity to register and monitor the assessment activities. A pdf copy of the survey is embedded in the September Office Hour slide deck.

Is there a master list of schools chosen to take the NAEP this year?

The Department does have a master list of the schools that have been selected for NAEP participation by the National Center for Education Statistics. Please reach out if you would like confirmation of whether your SAU or school has been selected for NAEP.

[ACCESS & Alternate ACCESS \(English language proficiency\)](#)

Resource

- Information related to the annual English Language Proficiency Assessment, can be found on the Maine DOE/ACCESS webpage: [English Language Proficiency Assessments | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#)

Questions

No questions at this time.

[MSAA \(Math/ELA and Science\)](#)

Resource

- Information related to the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) can be found on the Maine DOE/MSAA webpage: [MSAA | Department of Education \(maine.gov\)](#)

Questions

Can District Assessment Coordinators also be included in this communication so we can follow through?

Communication regarding the MSAA reporting window was sent to Special Education Directors and MSAA Test Coordinators multiple times the summer. A final email reminder will be sent out prior to the reporting window closing. District Assessment Coordinators will be included in a final email reminder.